

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 USIA-15 /030 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:ARTHOMPSON:DJW

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

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R 291759Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS STATE 103664

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, UR

SUBJECT: PRESS ON BREZHNEV VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. WASHINGTON POST OF APRIL 28 CARRIES FOLLOWING ARTICLE  
BY DUSKO DODER DATELINED BELGRADE PREVIOUS DAY: QTE

--- BREZHNEV TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA

--- SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV PLANS A VISIT SOON TO  
YUGOSLAVIA, SAID YUGOSLAV AND SOVIET DIPLOMATIC SOURCES  
TODAY, IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO REDUCE BILATERAL TENSIONS.

--- WESTERN DIPLOMATS HERE NOTED THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
THE VISIT, EXPECTED IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE, COMES AMID  
THE CONFUSION GENERATED IN EASTERN EUROPE BY THE MUCH-  
PUBLICIZED "SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE." THE SOVIET LEADER LAST  
VISITED BELGRADE IN 1971 AND PRESIDENT TITO RETURNED THE  
VISIT IN 1973.

--- YUGOSLAVS AND OTHER EAST EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN DISTURBED  
BY PUBLISHED REPORTS QUOTING STATE DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR  
HELMUT SONNENFELDT AS SUGGESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES  
ASSIST MOSCOW IN ACHIEVING "MORE VIABLE ORGANIC" LINKS WITH  
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ITS EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES.

--- ALTHOUGH NONALIGNED YUGOSLAVIA WAS OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF SONNENFELDT'S REMARKS, THEY HAVE LED TO REASSESSMENTS HERE -- DESPITE U.S. ASSURANCES THAT SONNENFELDT IMPLIED NO CHANGE IN POLICY.

--- THE SONNENFELDT PUBLICITY STRENGTHENED THE POSITION OF YUGOSLAVS WHO SEEK BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. BUT THESE SAME LEADERS MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD FIGHT SHOULD THE SOVIETS DECIDE TO INTERVENE HERE AFTER TITO'S DEATH. HE WILL BE 84 NEXT MONTH.

--- SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS HAVE DETERIORATED OVER THE LAST 18 MONTHS BECAUSE OF SHARP IDEOLOGICAL DISAGREEMENTS AND INCREASED SOVIET INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. YUGOSLAV POLICE HAVE UNCOVERED SEVERAL CLANDESTINE PRO-SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS HERE WITH TIES TO ANTI-TITO EMIGRES LIVING IN EASTERN EUROPE.

--- ALTHOUGH THE 100-ODD STALINISTS ARRESTED ARE NOT A THREAT IN THEMSELVES, THEIR BACKING BY SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES IS PERCEIVED HERE AS HAVING SINISTER IMPLICATIONS FOR YUGOSLAV INDEPENDENCE.

--- MOSCOW GAVE PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT IT DOES NOT SUPPORT THE ANTI-TITO ACTIVITIES. UNQUOTE SISCO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PARTY LEADERS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE103664  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ARTHOMPSON:DJW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 SEP 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <16 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS ON BREZHNEV VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, YO, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)  
**To:** BELGRADE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006